

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of receiving a user message through a transmission network, the method comprising:

receiving, in a mobile terminal, a request to establish a connection between the mobile terminal and an external device through the transmission network, the ~~signaling message request~~ including a data field that initially includes data and a spare field that initially does not include data, a user message being disposed in the spare field of the ~~generated signaling message received request~~, and the ~~generated signaling message received request~~, including the user message placed in the spare field, has a parameter that indicates that the user message has been placed in the spare field;

detecting the parameter in the spare field; and

responsive to receiving the ~~signaling message request~~ and detecting the parameter in the spare field, ~~denying terminating~~ the request to establish the connection between the mobile terminal and the external device before the connection is established.

2-7. (Canceled)

8. (Withdrawn) A transceiver device, intended for use in transmitting a user message to a called party and for receiving a reply to the user message from the called party, said device comprising:

a dedicated memory;

one or more of the user message and the reply to the user message stored in the dedicated memory; and

a processor adapted to form a signaling message so as to include the user message in a spare field;

wherein the processor is adapted also to send the signaling message during a call set-up operation of a signaling stage.

9. (Withdrawn) A device according to claim 8, wherein the capacity of the dedicated memory is no more than 35 bytes.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of sending a user message through a transmission network, the method comprising:

generating, in a mobile terminal, a signaling message as part of an attempt to establish a connection between the mobile terminal and an external device through the transmission network, the signaling message including a data field that initially includes data and a spare field that initially does not include data;

placing a user message in the spare field of the generated signaling message, the generated signaling message, including the user message has, a parameter that indicates that the user message has been placed in the spare field;

transmitting the signaling message to the external device after placing the user message in the spare field of the generated message;

receiving a reply message from the external device in reply to the transmitted signaling message, the reply message indicating that the signaling message was successfully received by the external device; and

responsive to receiving the reply message indicating that the signaling message was successfully received by the external device, ~~discontinuing-terminating~~ the attempt to establish the connection between the mobile terminal and the external device before the connection is established.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, further comprising storing the reply message in a dedicated memory of the mobile terminal.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, further comprising:

the mobile terminal receiving a command; and

responsive to receiving the command, the mobile terminal reading the reply message from the dedicated memory;

determining a status indicated by the reply message; and

if the status is positive, authorizing a payment to be made.

13-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, further comprising enciphering the user message.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein generating the signaling message further comprises generating one of a control message and a message for monitoring a plurality of signaling stages included in the attempt to establish the connection between the mobile terminal and the external device.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the reply message is an acknowledgement message.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein:

the user message includes a personal identification number (PIN) associated with a smart card,

the determining includes determining whether the status indicates that the smart card was authorized,

and the authorizing includes authorizing the payment to be made if the status indicates that the smart card is authorized.

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21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the reply message is received in a spare field in a reply signaling message as part of the attempt to establish the connection between the mobile terminal and the external device through the transmission network.